



TITLE:

Contents

AUTHOR(S):

CITATION:

Contents. Pan Africa News 2012, 19(1)

ISSUE DATE:

2012-06

URL:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2433/157940>

RIGHT:

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Pan Africa News

The Newsletter of the Committee for the Care
and Conservation of Chimpanzees, and the Mahale
Wildlife Conservation Society



ISSN 1884-751X (print), 1884-7528 (online) mahale.main.jp/PAN/

JUNE 2012

VOL. 19, NO. 1

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Playing with His Leg: A Case of Imaginary Social Play by an Adolescent Male Chimpanzee at Bossou?

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INTRODUCTION

Human children sometimes create imaginary playmates. Together with other forms of pretense, imaginary social play is considered to be an essential part of human cognitive development. For example, it is argued that imaginary playmate fantasy occurs frequently among human children and it facilitates social development by making possible the practice of play frame negotiation¹. Some authors restrict imaginary social play to *Homo sapiens*, emphasizing that the complex interactions that characterize the play with an imaginary companion constitute